(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the forestry management and the Eco-system in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (c) No agreement has been signed by this Ministry regarding forestry managment with the United States of America. However, the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, an autonomous body under the administrative control of this Ministry has entered into an agreement on 24th November 1995 with United States Department of Agriculture on a research project titled "Management of forests in India for biological diversity and forest produectivity—An Eco-system Perspective". The Project is for a duration of 5 years and is to be conducted in six Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks. The main objective of the project is to evaluate the impacts of forestry practices and the use of forest products by people, the methods of harvesting and collection on forest diversity and documentation of conservation problems. The total cost of the Project is Rs. 1,39,55,000 to be obligated by the United States Department of Agriculture from US India Fund (USIF).

Low Foodgrains Productivity in the Hilly Region of Uttar Pradesh

*355. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the net per unit production of grains/cereals in the hilly region of Uttar Pradesh is much less as compared to the plains;

(b) if so, whether Government have proposed/initiated any action plan to promote horticulture in the said area; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce any major development programme to promote horticulture through training and transfer of technology in village Basot, District Almora, Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) whether Government also propose to involve any NGO to promote horticulture in the said village, to make it selfsufficient in the use and promotion of horticulture?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The action plan to promote horticulture in the hilly region of the State include implementation of the Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Scheme on development of furits, vegetables, root & tuber crops, mushroom, medicinal & aromatic plants, spices, nutritional gardens and promotion of use plastics for horticultural crops. The State Government is advising the farmers to grow the horticultural crops in areas where there is less productivity of grains/cereals.

(c) This village is covered under normal horticulture development programmes and transfer of improved technology to farmers through training and demonstrations forms an integral part of the horticulture development schemes under implementation in the region.

(d) No such proposal is under considera tion at present.

Production and Yield of Coarse Grains

*336. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production and yield of coarse grains, including maize, during the last five years;

(b) whether the area under these crops is declining; and

(c) the details of the efforts being made to increase both production and yield of coarse grains?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) A statement giving All India Area, production and yield of coarse grains—cropwise during the last five years i.e. 1991-92 to 1995-96 is *annexed {See* below).

(b) The area under coarse cereals crops except Maize has been generally declining over the years.